

## CLAIMS

I claim:

- 1           1. An acoustic musical instrument, comprising:
  - 2           a head having a tensioning device attached thereto;
  - 3           a fingerboard extending from the head, the fingerboard
  - 4           having a plurality of frets;
  - 5           a hollow body extending from the fingerboard and having a
  - 6           sounding board, a bottom board, and at least one side extending
  - 7           between the sounding board and the bottom board, the hollow body
  - 8           defining a sound chamber, the sounding board having a top
  - 9           surface and a bottom surface;
  - 10          a bridge attached to the top surface of the sounding board;
  - 11          a plurality of tone bars attached to the bottom surface of
  - 12          the sounding board;
  - 13          a string block extending between two of the tone bars and
  - 14          spaced from said sounding board;
  - 15          at least one string having a first end attached to the
  - 16          tensioning device and having a second end; and
  - 17          means for anchoring the second end of the at least one
  - 18          string to the string block.

1           2.    The acoustic musical instrument of claim 1, wherein  
2 said acoustic musical instrument is a guitar.

1           3.    The acoustic musical instrument of claim 2, wherein  
2 said at least one string is a steel string.

1           4.    The acoustic musical instrument according to claim 1,  
2 wherein said bridge further comprises a bridge plate having an  
3 aperture defined therein, said sounding board having an aperture  
4 defined therein aligned with the aperture defined in the bridge  
5 plate, said at least one string passing through the aligned  
6 aperture and being attached to said string block.

1           5.    The acoustic musical instrument of claim 1, wherein  
2 said means for anchoring comprises a peg extending through said  
3 bridge and said sounding board and being fixed in said string  
4 block.

1        6. A method of stringing a musical instrument, comprising  
2 the steps of:

3        anchoring a first end of each of a plurality of strings to  
4 a string block, the string block being spaced from and  
5 positioned beneath a sounding board; and

6        attaching a second end of each of said plurality of strings  
7 to a tensioning device.

      7. The method of claim 6, wherein said anchoring step  
further comprises inserting a peg into an aperture formed in  
10 said string block.